GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5714
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan for the development of infrastructure to assist Horticultural Board has been chalked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States exporting horticulture products to the maximum extent?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b): For promoting horticulture in the country and particularly to strengthen post harvest infrastructure, the Government is providing assistance to beneficiaries through the schemes of National Horticulture Board (NHB).NHB was set up by Government of India in 1984 under the Societies Registration Act 1860 as an autonomous body. NHB is wholly funded by Government ofIndia by way of grants-in-aid. Major thrust was given to NHB programmes during the 8th Five YearPlan where NHB took up various activities/programmes right from production to post harvest management, in accordance with its objectives, with a financial outlay of Rs.156.00 crores. NHB has been implementing schemes of Integrated Project on Management of Post HarvestInfrastructure (PHM) of Horticultural Crops under which financial assistance in the form of soft loanis provided for creation of post harvest infrastructure facilities which include pre-cooling units, refrigerated transport vehicles, specialised transport vehicles, grading/packaging etc. and Development of Marketing of Horticultural Produce through Participation in Soft Loan under whichfinancial assistance is provided in the form of soft loan for setting up integrated projects in the field of fruits and vegetables marketing and processing etc. In order to give a major thrust to the development of cold storages, government recently approved a scheme for construction/expansion/modernisation of cold storages and storages for horticultural produce under which capital subsidy is provided and the scheme is under implementation by National Horticulture Board.

In the light of the experiences gained and considering the recommendations received from various quarters like State Governments, Expert Groups, Parliament Committees, Farmers`Associations etc. and also keeping in mind the emerging needs for extending support to the horticulture industry, the 9th Plan proposals for NHB have been made more broad-based and re- oriented to encompass every aspect of horticulture promotion in the country.

(c): The State-wise data for export of horticultural product are not maintained.